# THE Intelligencer.

NUMB. XVI.

*Sed virum verâ virtute vivere animatum addecet, Fortiterq; innoxium vacare adversum adversarios.* Enni

Mr. *Intelligencer.*

IT may appear to you perhaps a thing very unnatural, to receive a Complaint from a *Son* againſt his *Father*, but the treatment, which I meet with from mine, is of ſuch a Nature, that it is impoſſible for me not to complain.

You muſt know there are three Brethren of us, *George*, *Patrick*, and *Andrew*; I am the ſecond, but the laſt in Affection with my *Father*, for which I call Heaven and Earth to Witneſs, I never committed any Fault to incur his diſpleaſure, or to deſerve his neglect. But ſo it is, that the beſt of Men have oftentimes been miſled in the choice of their Minions, and very undiſcerning in conferring their favours where they ought.

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If Parents could but once bring themſelves to be impartial, it would beyond all doubt, produce a delightful Union in their Children, and be the moſt binding Cement, that could be thought of, to preſerve their Affections, becauſe an equal Diſpenſation of favours would entirely remove all cauſe of murmuring, repining, or envy. And, what is of the greateſt Conſequence, would ſecure the love and eſteem of their Children; whereas a partial behaviour in Parents, muſt neceſſarily produce the contrary.

But to State my Caſe, in the beſt manner I can, and with an unbiaſſed regard to Truth, I think it firſt neceſſary to give you our Characters, with an Account of my *Father's* behaviour, that you may be the better able to give me your *Advice.*

Firſt then, to begin with my Brother *George.* He was ever a great lover of his Belly, and formerly uſed to Cram himſelf with *Beef, Pudding,* and *White-pot,* but for ſome time paſt, he has taken more delight in New-fangled *Toſs-ups,* and *French Kick-ſhaws.* This high Feeding does naturally diſpoſe him to be Haughty, Stuborn, Cholerick and Rebellious, inſomuch, that beſide his inſults towards others, he is ready, upon all occaſions, to fly in his own *Father's* Face and apt to deſpiſe every Body, but himſelf.

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He is so various in his Opinions, that he is of as many *Religions*, as there are, and have been *Sects*, since the beginning of *Christianity*; but the *True* and *Reformed Church, as by Law Established*, is what he chiefly frequents. He was once a great Admirer of Ancient Learning, but he has long since quitted this, for the Reading of *News-Papers*, *Pamphlets*, and *Modern Languages*. In his younger Years, he was fond of Manly Exercises, such as *Fencing*, *Leaping*, *Boxing*, *Pitching the Bar*, *Wrestling*, *Hurling*, *Foot-ball*, *Hunting*, &c. But of late he has fain into a strange and unaccountable Effeminacy, and seems to take delight in nothing, but *Masquerades*, *Plays*, and *Italian Operas*. He is very fond of *Italian* Magnificent Buildings, although entirely inconsistent with our Climate, extravagant in the highest degree, in purchasing fine Paintings, and Statues, and no less expensive in vast extensive Parks and Gardens, by which means, he has almost run out all his Fortune.

My youngest Brother *Andrew*, who has cunning enough to outwit the *Devil*, joyned with Brother *George* some Years ago, and they manage so dextrously together, that whatever they say is a *Law* with my *Father*; however, they are not without their Quarrels now and then, but Brother *Andrew* still comes by the worst, although he is cautious enough,

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go always armed; for Brother *George* wears a longer Sword. Brother *Andrew* is not very nice in his Food, but loves fine Cloaths. This I ſuppoſe he has learned abroad; for he is a great Traveller. His chief Studies are *Mathematicks*, and the *Civil-law*, in both which he has made a conſiderable Progreſs. As for his *Religion*, although he openly profeſſes himſelf a moſt Rigid *Fanatick of the Kirk*, yet he is ſhrewdly ſuſpected, to have a bankering after *Popery*. He has one eminent bad Quality, which is, that he cannot eaſily forgive and forget. I remember I was once ſo unfortunate, as to tell a fair Lady, (a Miſtreſs of mine) before his Face, that I would ſtand by her againſt him, and all her other Adverſaries, which he took hainouſly ill, and has not forgiven me to this hour, but lies upon the Watch, to do me all the ill Offices he can.

I come now to my own Character, in which I ſhall not Conceal, nor Gloſs over my Vices, Errors, or Failings, but at the ſame time, I ſhall not think it inconſiſtent with Modeſty, to tell you my Virtues.

I have but a ſmall Fortune, can hardly keep Soul and Body together, yet out of a regard to my Family, which is very Ancient, I love to make what they call a Figure, upon extraordinary occaſions. And now and then I furniſh

furniſh my Table with Victuals, and Liquors of the beſt kinds, which makes my *Father*, and Brother *George*, think I have got the World in a String. I am kind and hoſpitable to Strangers, although they frequently Rob my Houſe, and turn my Children to ly in the Barn.

I am ſo fond of Learning, that I put them to the beſt Shool in the Kingdom, and I plainly ſee they will be only the wiſer, but never the richer for it, becauſe my *Father* uſes all his Intereſt for brother *Georges* Sons, and the greateſt *Dunce* among them ſhall be better provided for, than the moſt Ingenious of mine. And I muſt ſay I have ſome who are equal in Learning to the beſt of his. I had a deſigne once, to follow *Merchandiſe*; that I might be the better able to Provide for my Poor Children, but Brother *George* having a mind to make a *Monopoly*, prevailed upon my *Father*, to join againſt me, and ſo at laſt they contrived it, that I ſhould ſell nothing but a few of my Catle, and ſome Linnen Cloath, which is all the Support I have; Whereas brother *George* can Sell every thing he has, all the World over. And ſo cruel is he to me, that he will not let me have even a bit of his dirt, if he thinks it will be of any advantage to me. My *Religion* is of three Sorts, The *Eſtabliſhed*, *Po-*

*piſh*

*piſh* and *Preſbyteryean*, but I have a greater Share of the Firſt in me. I think it is beſt, becauſe it encourages obedience to my *Father*, more than either of the other two. It is not long ſince Brother *George*, and *Andrew*, were in a confederacy againſt my Father, with an Intent to turn him out of his Houſe, and give another the Poſſeſſion, at which critical Juncture, I muſtered up a great Number of my Sons, and Servants, to his Aſſiſtance, and for ought I know ſaved both his Life, and Fortune.

Soon after this, I had like to have been ruined by a Project for one of my Brother *George's* Family endeavoured to perſwade my *Father*, that *Gold*, and *Silver*, were of no uſe to me, and deſired leave to furniſh me with a few *Counters*, in lieu thereof, and I fear I ſhould have been ſo Weak, as to accept of them, had it not been for the Seaſonable Remonſtrances, made by Some of my own *Houſe*.

Theſe are a fewe of the many Hardſhips I have ſuffered, not withſtanding all which, I am willing to continue a *Paſſive Obedience*, to my Dear *Father*; for I have Reaſon to believe, that his unkindneſs to me is owing to ill Adviſers, who have prejudiced him againſt me, and my Children; but I Hope, before long, he will be able to diſtinguiſh his moſt faithful Son. In the mean time, I do

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humbly entreat the Favour of you to Write a Letter to my *Father*, which he may See in Print, for I Fear all my Letters to him hitherto have been Intercepted.

SIR,

YOU have not told me your *Father's* Name, nor his Quality, and therefore I am at a loſs in what manner I ſhould Addreſs him. But in common Humanity (becauſe I think your caſe deplorable) I will give you what Comfort I am able, together with my beſt Advice.

You are not the only Inſtance of *Suffering Innocence*, and therefore it ought not to Surprize you that *Providence* (for reaſons unaccountable to us) has laid two great Tryals in your way *Oppreſſion* from your *Brethern*, and *Unkindneſs* from your *Father*, this too without any Fault on your Side. If you did not meet with theſe Afflictions, you would want an Opportunity of ſhewing your Humility, and Reſignation, as I underſtand you do not by your Letter.

Let me Adviſe you, to conſider that your Condition is not quite ſo Lamentable, as that of *Joſeph*, who triumphed in GOD's own time over all his Misfortunes, and ſufferings, and at leaſt had the pleaſure of doing good, even to his Perſecutors; but indeed there is this Difference, that his grievance

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was chiefly from his *Brethern*; for had his Father joined in the Cruelty, the Wounds would have Pierced nearer to his Heart.

I do not in the leaſt doubt, but there are ſome about your Father, who do you ill Offices, (I hope ſome time or other they will be detected) you may find, a convenient Oportunity of getting fairly at him. State your Caſe and expoſtulate with him concerning your own and your Children's Sufferings. When he hears your Story, and beholds your Sincerity, you may be ſure of his Compaſſion, and a Redreſs; for there is no Heart ſo hard as not to Sympathize with real Woe, no Advocate ſo Powerful, as Innocence. In the mean time, let me Conjure you, not to turn aſide to the Right or to the Left, from that indiſpenſable Duty, which the expreſs Laws of GOD enjoin you, for let me aſſure you, that Ingratitude to a Parent is, no leſs than Rebellion, like the Sin of Witchcraft.

I Commit you to his Care and Direction, who is beſt able to Govern the unruly affections of Men, to turn the Hearts of the Malicious, and to Relieve and Support thoſe who ſuffer for the Sake of Righteouſneſs.

I am your faithful Friend;
The *Intelligencer*.

FINIS.